

SPIDER-MAN

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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DEADLIER THAN EVER--
AND THIS TIME--

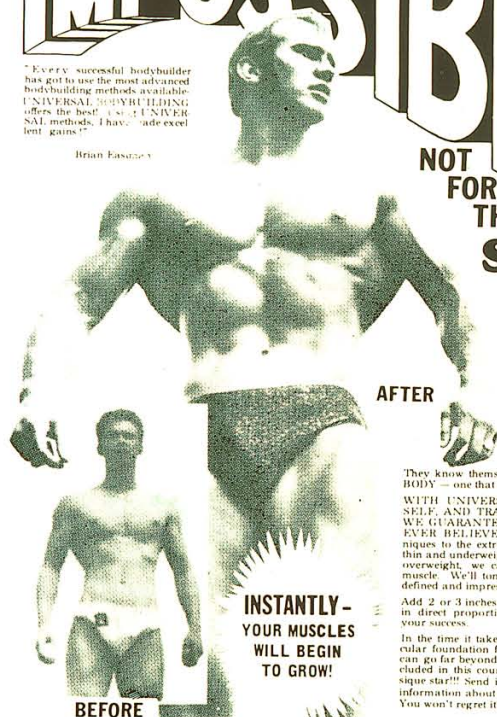
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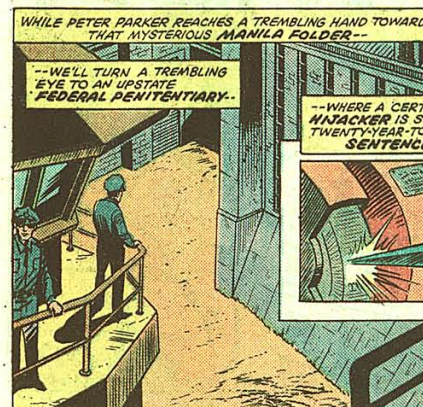


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THERE'S A "BOUNTY FOR A VAMPIRE"-- BUT IT WON'T BE COLLECTED AS LONG AS DRACULA LIVES!

2

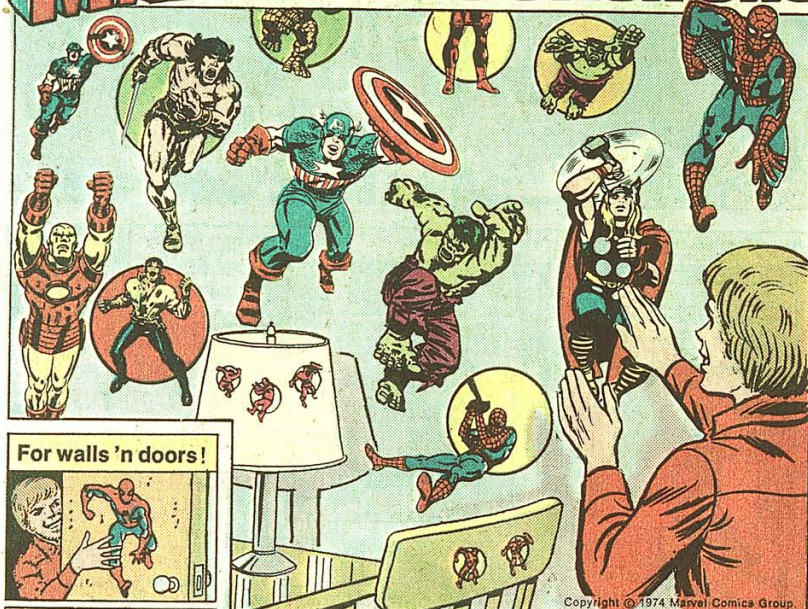


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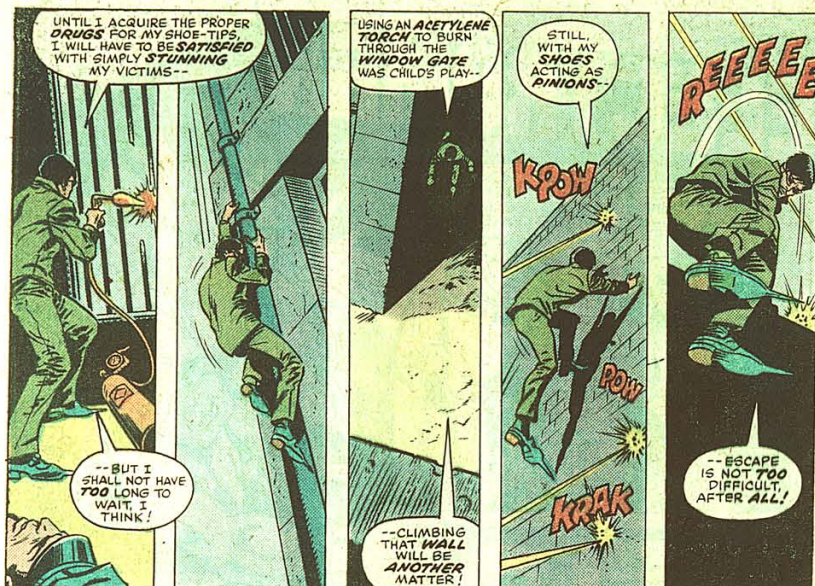
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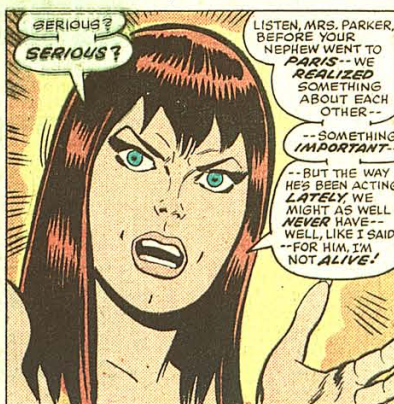
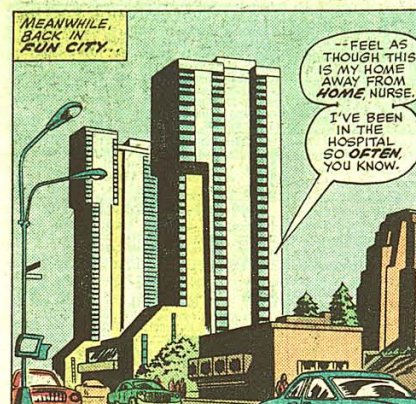
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7

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VAROOM!
GET THE JUMP ON EVERYONE!
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X-2 EVEL KNieVEL

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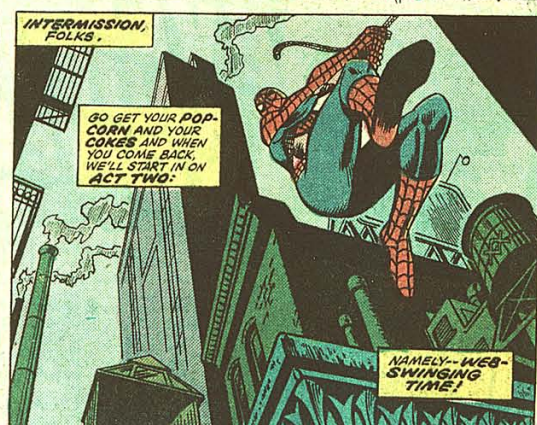
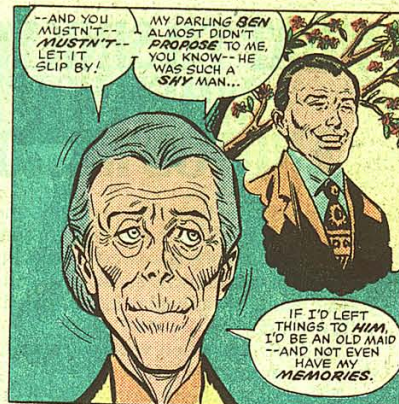
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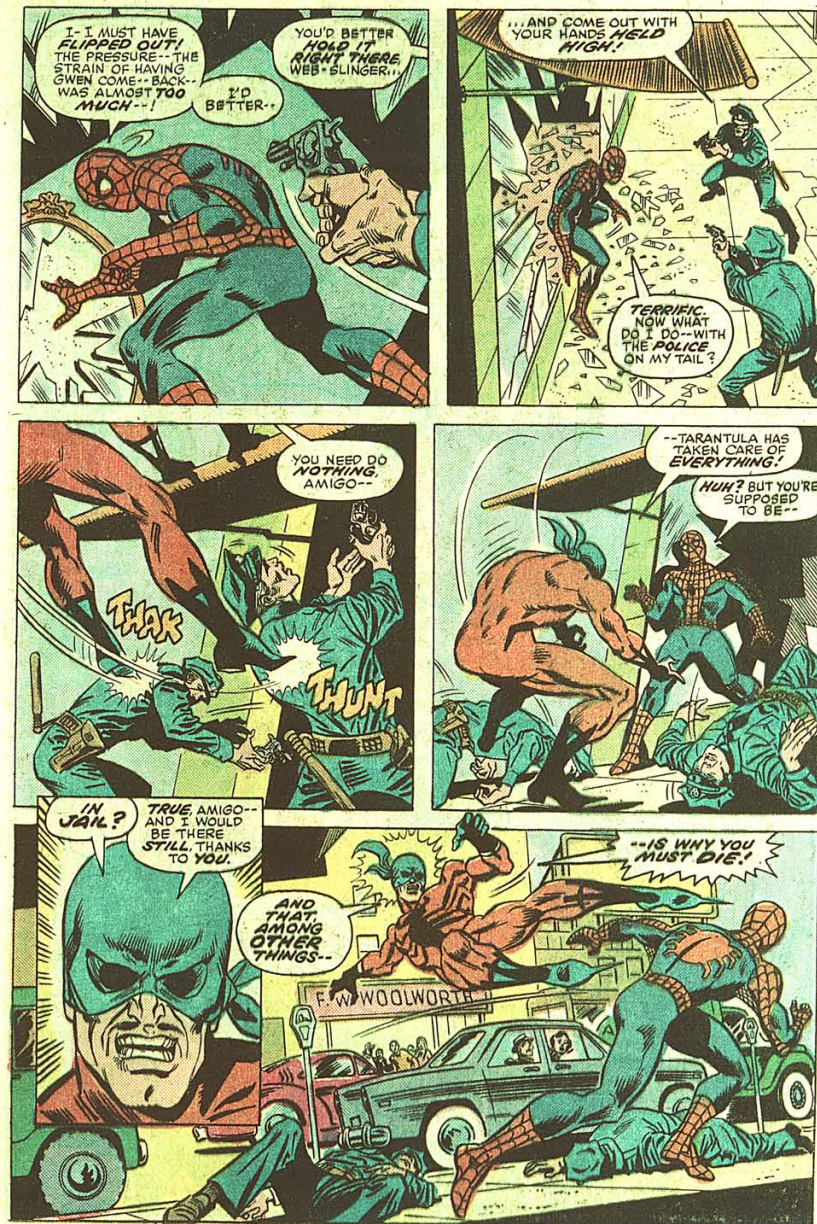
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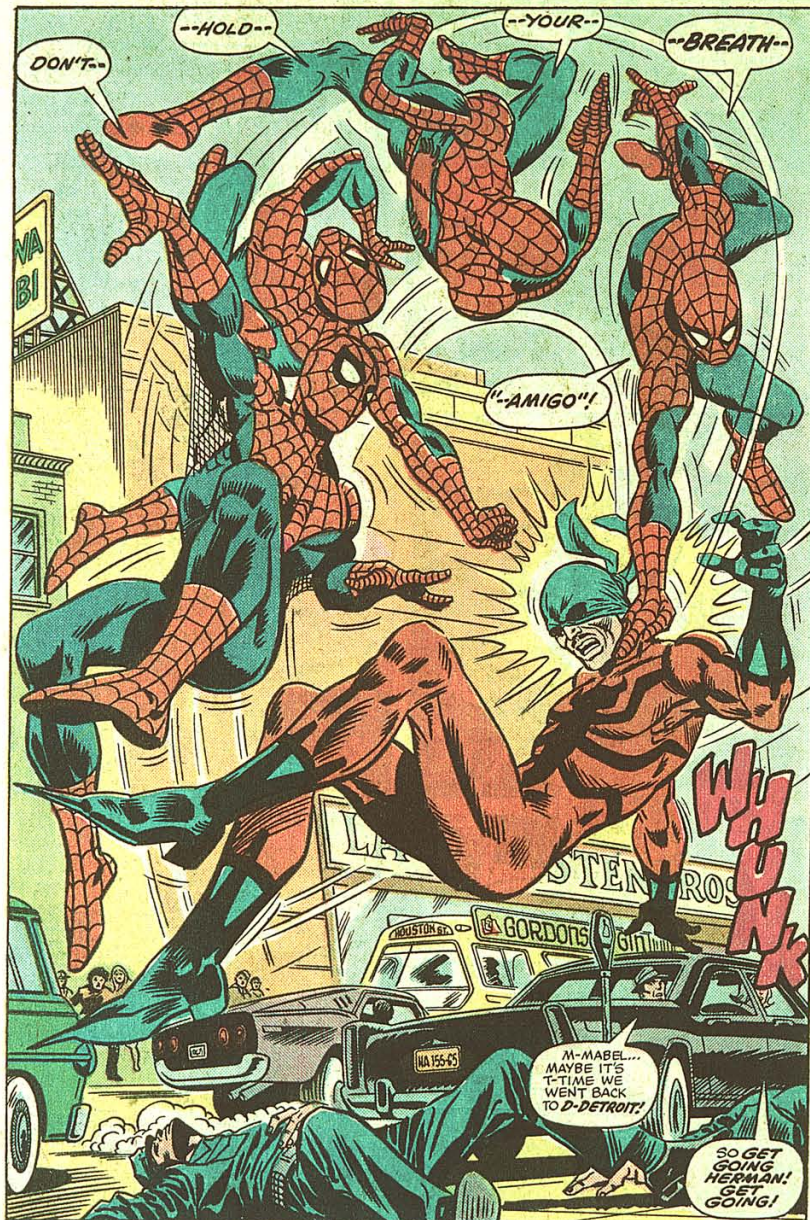


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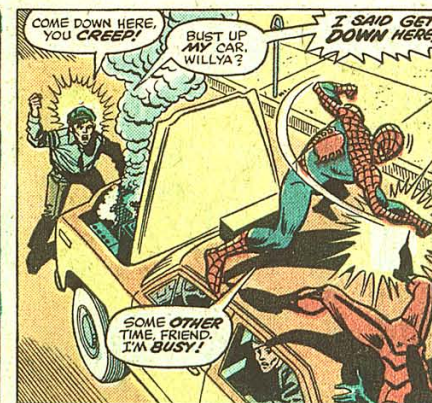
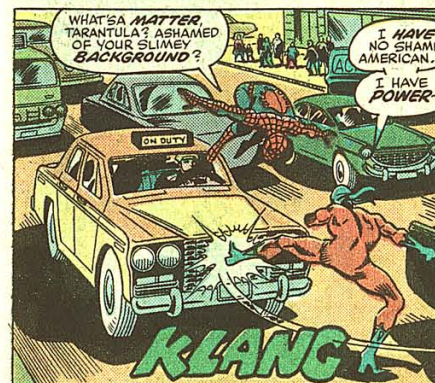
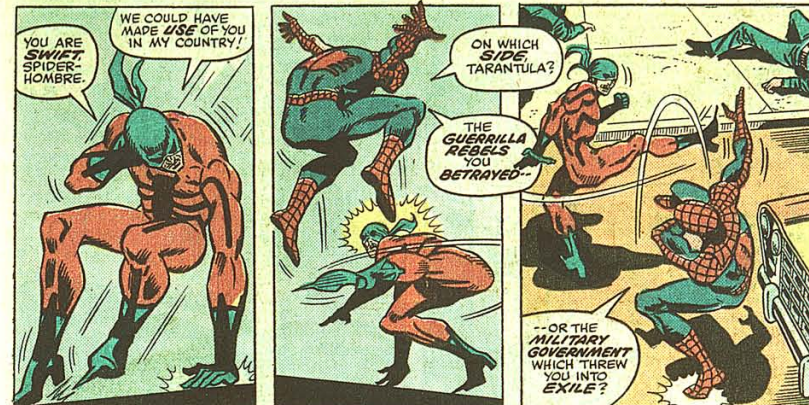


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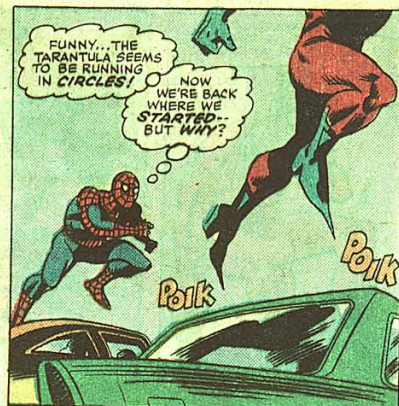
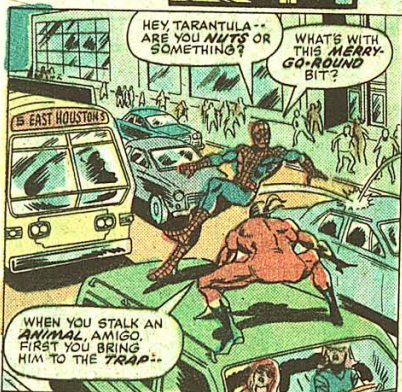


PULSE-POUNDING PREMIERE ISSUE— BEFORE THE DAWN OF MAN THERE STOOD SKULL THE SLAYER!

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



THE SPIDERS' WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear People:

Congratulations! SPIDER-MAN #143 was indeed one of the most thoroughly satisfying Spider-Man sagas I have ever thrilled to. I would like to congratulate everyone credited with this MARVELOUS issue. Ross Andru's art, which had dropped below peak excellence, is again at it's original best. This first part of Spidey's adventure with the Cyclone is one of the most dramatic and mindboggling stories ever introduced into the pages of SPIDER-MAN (I am of course referring to JJ's kidnapping and Mary Jane's and Pete's sudden affection for each other. I have only one request. Let Pete graduate from college.

Ever since SPIDER-MAN #1, Pete has gone through school in close accordance to the time it took me to go through school. When first the awaiting public spied Pete, he was a senior at Midtown High School where he graduated in issue #28. He was then out of school for the summer vacation. Pete began attending college in issue #31 and he's been there for the last nine years. It's time for Peter Parker to graduate and move on in life.

In closing, I would just like to say two words: "FOOM Forever!"

Chip S. Lind
2342 10th Street
Rockford, IL 61108

Group!

I just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #143—for the third time. After the first reading, my reaction was WOW! Now I've changed my mind. CLASSIC!

Reasoning: Gerry Conway's story. While "...And the Wind Cries: CYCLONE" was not quite up to the level of the Xorr/God Jewel series in THOR, it should still be up there in his gallery of landmark stories. Sandwiched in between Robbie's proposal and the Paris sequence was the beginning of a new life for Mr. Parker. Mary Jane has been growing on me—and certainly on Pete—for some time now. Sooner or later, you had to do something with her. Although it was the more predictable choice, I'm glad you did this.

Congratulations, Mr. Conway. Pete and MJ have some rethinking to do, some changes to make, but with you at the helm (you WILL be at the helm, won't you?), I'm sure they'll do all right. And congratulations, Ross Andru. Len, He's GOOD, so don't get rid of him anytime soon. He's just about the best choice for doing SPIDER-MAN.

The letters page—first off, I should think it obvious what Peter Parker is doing in his ninth year of college: Flunking way too many classes. Also, I feel he should "but outta college," as you put it. What to do then? Don't ask me. However, the job he takes up (after quitting at the *Daily Bugle*) should give him plenty of flexibility. The guy's had enough hassles along the lines of "Where-were-you-while-Spider-Man-saved-the-city?" Give him a break.

Let me repeat: Group, with SPIDER-MAN #143, you did it again.

David R. Baldwin
(no address given)

Dear Gerry and Ross,

SPIDER-MAN #143 was a typical Conway story; the kind I would expect from you, Gerry. Sure to be a masterpiece, and that seems to be the category for the Mysterio stories in the last issue. Your dialogue reads like what real people would say in the same situation.

I'm glad you have strengthened the loose bond that held Peter and Mary Jane together. Mary Jane's personality had been unstable at best but this issue ended all that. The scene at airport showed that Peter is ready to accept a new girlfriend, and that he and Mary Jane do care very much for each other. This plot should be played up, Gerry.

It was a good idea to have Peter and Robbie go to Paris; it was a good change of pace from New York. Having JJJ get kidnapped was also a good idea. And I like your latest super-villain, Cyclone, because he is also a good change of pace from your other super-villains; but I didn't like the art, except on Spider-Man himself.

However, all-in-all, it was a great issue.

Billy Matheny
1006 Lane Avenue
Titusville, FL 32780

If you think #143 was great, Billy, then boy do we have an issue in store for you! Check out SPIDER-MAN #148, cause you ain't seen nothin'—but nothin'—yet. You doubt us, amigo? Then *be here*, in a scanty 30 days, for web-slingin' action as you like it!

And if you *don't* like it after that tremendous come on, we know we'll be hearing about it. Cause you Marvelites ain't about to let us rest on our roseate laurels, and that's a fact. Dismissed.



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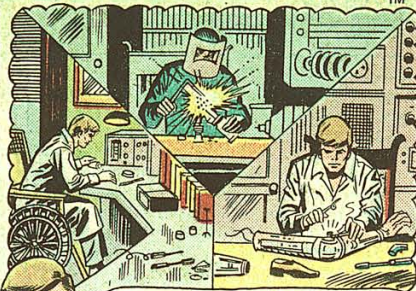
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MIKE POWER RIPS OPEN HIS SUIT AND REVEALS HIS ATOMIC LIMBS AND ACTIVATES HIS ATOMIC EYE.

BECAUSE I'M THE ATOMIC MAN!!

WHAT THE? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!!!



NOBODY HAS. YOU SEE, I JUST WOULDN'T SETTLE FOR THE DISABLED LIMBS I WAS BORN WITH AND SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE CREATING FANTASTIC NEW ATOMIC PARTS FOR MY BODY!!!



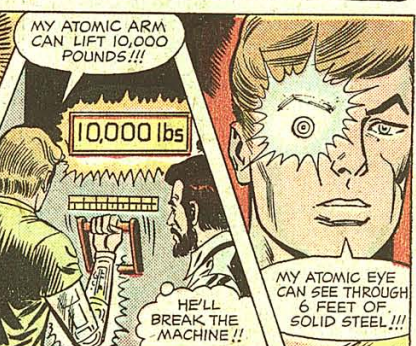
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10,000 lbs

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I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND READ MY PAPER. THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.

WOW! LOOKIT THAT!

THANK YOU FOR MOVING TO THE REAR OF THE BUS.

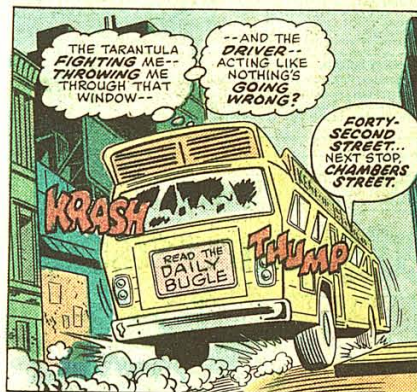


NEXT STOP-- FORTY-SECOND STREET.

THIS IS CRAZY-- DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE--!



"GREAT! IT'S SLOWING DOWN -- STOPPING! NOW I CAN--"



THE TARANTULA FIGHTING ME-- THROWING ME THROUGH THAT WINDOW--

--AND THE DRIVER-- ACTING LIKE NOTHING'S GOING WRONG?

FORTY-SECOND STREET. NEXT STOP, CHAMBERS STREET.



LEMME OUTTA HERE!

THIS CITY'S GONE CRAZY!

HELP! POLICE! HELP!

I WILL GO HOME AND I WILL GO TO SLEEP.

--AND WHEN I WAKE UP, NONE OF THIS WILL HAVE HAPPENED.



GWEN! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, HONEY? YOU CAN'T--!

NO! SHE DOESN'T HEAR ME! SHE'S ACTING LIKE-- A ROBOT?

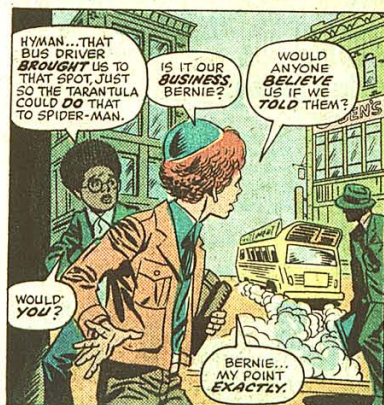


MISS... YOU FORGOT YOUR THIRTY-FIVE CENTS.

NOT YOU AGAIN! MISTER, YOU CAN'T BE REAL!

NOBODY BEHAVES LIKE YOU DO-- NOBODY!

YOU DON'T THINK SO?



HYMAN... THAT BUS DRIVER BROUGHT US TO THAT SPOT. JUST SO THE TARANTULA COULD DO THAT TO SPIDER-MAN.

IS IT OUR BUSINESS, BERNIE?

WOULD ANYONE BELIEVE US IF WE TOLD THEM?

WOULD YOU?

BERNIE... MY POINT EXACTLY.



UMMMMPH! TARANTULA'S PLAYING SERIOUS NOW--!

AND IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS, THIS BUS KEEPS SWERVING-- SPEEDING LIKE CRAZY--!



THEN I SUPPOSE "THE GIG IS UP" EH, LAWMAN?

NOBODY "REAL" DOES ACT THE WAY I DO--

--BECAUSE NO ONE "REAL" IS THE JACKAL!



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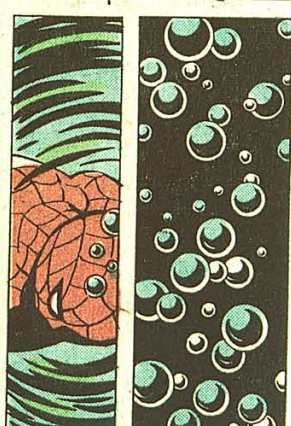
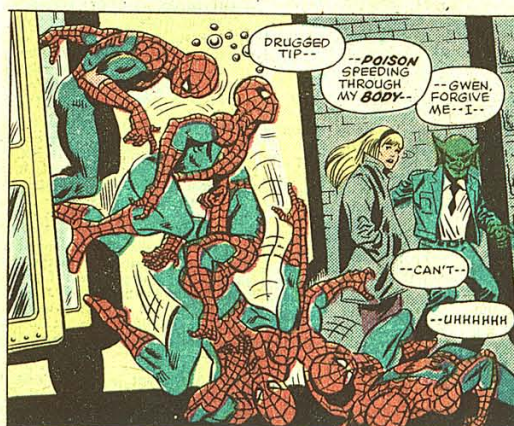
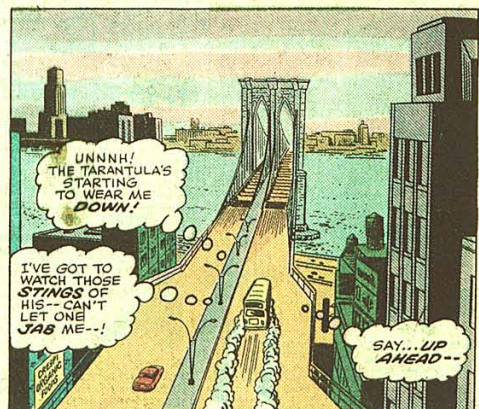
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Yep, it's true—there definitely will be a sequel to the ol' best-selling ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! That cheering you hear is from your local book store! And, in answer to the thousands of requests (some guy named Hymie Thousands happened to ask), these are the characters that will be featured in our own inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible style: Iron Man! Daredevil! X-Men! Avengers! Captain America! Sub-Mariner! Human Torch! Sgt. Fury! Plus another unexpected sensation whom we're saving as the surprise of the year! The only problem is, we haven't figured out a title for the book yet. Dunno whether to call it MORE ORIGINS, or SON OF ORIGINS, or what? If you've any suggestions, don't be bashful. And if you haven't bought the original ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS yet, better not delay too long. No telling how many sequels will be published, and you won't wanna be the only one in town without a full set! But now it's culture time. Wouldja believe that yours truly set some kinda record recently by speaking at five colleges in as many days! Yep, I've got a hunch that ol' Michigan State U., Augustana, Ferris State, and the University of Wisconsin won't ever be the same, to say nothing of Montreal's George Williams College. The only thing I can't figure out is why, after all this campus-hopping, Spidey hasn't gotten his doctorate yet! Or, in the words of Honest Iv' Forbush, "How soon they forget"! And now, I'll leave you with this age-old riddle which has stumped wise men and sages since time immemorial: Who feeds the elephants at Monte Python's flying circus? And while you've guessing, remember—vive la bagatelle!

Excelsior

Stan

ITEM! Hang on to your FOOmbership card, Faithful One, 'cause your blushing Bullpen is about to let you in on the most long-awaited event since Judy Garland took that first fateful step over the rainbow. Almost before you could expect it, your hot-blooded House of Ideas will be unleashing a brand-new, pulse-pounding magazine destined to become one of the biggest and brightest stars in the hit-studded Marvel heavens; our own artful adaptation of one of the greatest children's fantasy series of all time—"THE WIZARD OF OZ"! Everyone here at Mad, Ave. is so proud of our peerless project that we've made sure only the best of the Bullpen will produce it; so plauidts to Rascally ROY THOMAS and Big JOHN BUSCEMA

for corralling the most sought-after assignment to come, down the pike in ages, thus gaining a chance to prove that brawny, bold, barbarians aren't the only wonderment they're more than capable of producing. We can't tell you exactly when this Marvel Munchkin Masterwork will be hitting your newsstands, or its size and shape (we don't want the Wicked Witch of the West to find out), but you can bet your ruby slippers that it'll be well worth waiting for! So if you've ever wondered what would happen if the madness of Marvel joined forces with the genius of L. FRANK BAUM, this is your chance to find out! Don't miss it, Marvelite—you know how angry Toto gets!

ITEM! It seems congratulations are in order for the remarkable Mr. Buscema in more ways than one. Not only has he copped the juiciest artistic plum in Marvel-dom's plum-filled history, but even as we pen these imperishable words, Joltin' John has embarked upon a new career—as the head of his very own ART SCHOOL! If you've ever dreamed of learning at the side of one of comicdom's all-time greats, here's your chance! Just keep your eyes glued to our cataclysmic classified ad pages for the next few months to learn all the details, and you may become one of the privileged ones to enroll in John's sensational course! We're counting on Mr. Buscema to start turning out the most talented new artists of all—and you could be one of them! "Nuff Said!

ITEM! While we're on the subject of congratulations, let's hear it for Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN, who's returning to the fold after far too long an absence, to replace Dauntless DON MCGREGOR as the erudite Editor of several of Marvel's block-busting black-and-white magazines. Archie will be controlling the direction of such various and sundry items as PLANET OF THE APES, DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU, VAMPIRE TALES, and others. He may even turn out a comics script or two, if he can find a few spare minutes between his editorial chores and his scripting duties on the syndicated SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN newspaper strip. Don't worry about the whereabouts of Dauntless Don, by the way. Mr. McGregor is still very much with us, turning out scripts for the Black Panther in JUNGLE ACTION, Killraven in AMAZING ADVENTURES, and his newest acquisition, LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN, a mag begun, just a few years back, by Artful Archie himself! (There's a note of irony in there somewhere, but don't ask us what it is!) In the meanwhile, welcome back, Arch—it's good to have you aboard!

ITEM! Pardon us for blushing, but the nominations for the 1974 SHA-

ZAM AWARDS have just been announced by the ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS, and mighty Marvel walked away with so many of the various categories that it's almost embarrassing. Just take a gander for yourself—and you'll see what we mean! Best Penciller, Humor Division: DAN DeCARLO, FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Inker, Humor Division: RUDY LAPICK, RALPH REESE FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Writer, Humor Division: NICK CUTI, STEVE GERBER, JOE GILL, and STEVE SKATES. Best Penciller, Dramatic Division: JOHN BUSCEMA GENE COLAN, and BERNI WRIGHTSON. Best Inker, Dramatic Division: FRANK GIACIOIA, DICK GIOR-DANO, TOM PALMER, and JOE SINNOTT. Best Writer, Dramatic Division: STEVE GERBER, ARCHIE GOODWIN, and ROY THOMAS. (Seems the Bullpen virtually swept the dramatic categories, don't it?) Best Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA, ANNETTE KAWECKI, GASPARD SALADINO, and ARTIE SIMEK. Best Colorist: MARIE SEVERIN, GLYNIS WEIN, and TAT-JANA WOOD. Superior Achievement by an Individual: BARRY SMITH, ROY THOMAS, and JIM STARLIN. Best Continuing Feature: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, TOMB OF DRACULA, and MAN-THING. Best Individual Story, "Gottedammerung," "Night of the Stalker," and "Red Nails." Best Individual Short Story: "Burma Sky," "Cathedral Perilous," and "Jennifer." Best Humor Story: "The Boob Rube Story," "The ECCH-orcist," "Kaspar the Dead Baby," and "Police Gory Story." (Sounds like the contents page from an issue of CRAZY magazine!) Outstanding New Talent: PAUL GULACY, AL MILGROM, ANNETTE KAWECKI and CRAIG RUSSELL. Hall of fame: JACK KIRBY, ALEX TOT, and WALLY WOOD. We'll give you a complete rundown of the wistful winners in just a few months, so keep watchin', hear?

ITEM! A tip of the slightly-battered Marvel bowler to the members of the prestigious PITTSBURGH COM-IX CLUB for the rousing reception they gave Powerhouse! PAUL GULACY and Guest of Honor, Lively LEN WEIN, at the first annual PITTCON, held the home of the Super Bowl Steelers just a few weeks past. The interest, enthusiasm, and gracious hospitality shown Len and Paul by blushing BEN PONDEXTER and the rest of the gang will not soon be forgotten. Muchas Gracias, Pittsburgh—and keep those homelies burning!

ITEM! We've got just about enough room left to tell you we've got no more room left for this go-round! See ya in thirty!

CAPTAIN MARVEL in THE BIG BANG!

CALLING CAPTAIN MARVEL! THIS IS SPACE SHIP 49! WE HAVE INTERCEPTED A MESSAGE FROM NITRO HEADQUARTERS!

WHAT'S THAT CREEP UP TO NOW?

NITRO! LOOK! CAPTAIN MARVEL IS ESCORTING THAT SHIP!

MUST BE CARRYING VALUABLE CARGO! LET'S FOLLOW HIM FIRST!

WOW! GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMY FILLING INSIDE!

THAT WILL KEEP NITRO BUSY FOR A WHILE! I KNEW HE'D GET A BIG BANG OUT OF HOSTESS TWINKIES!

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MMM—CHOMP CHOMP

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HA! THEY'RE TAKING THE BAIT!

LET'S CAPTURE THAT SHIP AND GET THE TREASURE!

AND MARVEL'S TURNING BACK—THE SHIP WAS PROBABLY ON REMOTE CONTROL!

LOOK! THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN IS OPENING UP!

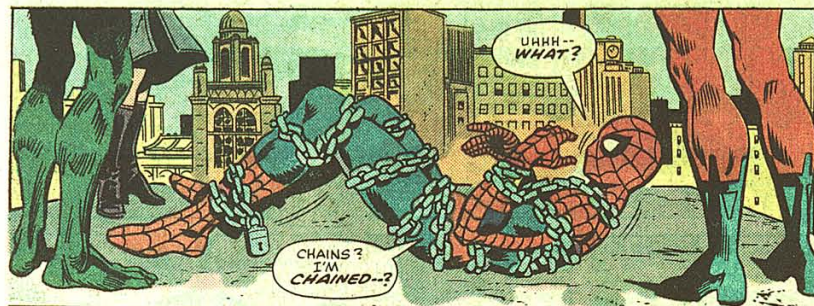
MEANWHILE...

THE MESSAGE REVEALS A PLOT FOR A BIG BLOW UP—THE BIGGEST YET!

MUST BE AN ATTACK ON FORT KNOX!

NOPE! THAT'S NOT IT...

EITHER WAY—I'LL HAVE TO SET A TRAP!



THE TARANTULA'S BACK IN TOWN— AND SPIDER-MAN HAS HIM!

30



NEXT ISSUE REVEALED AT LAST! **WHO IS--THE JACKAL?**

31

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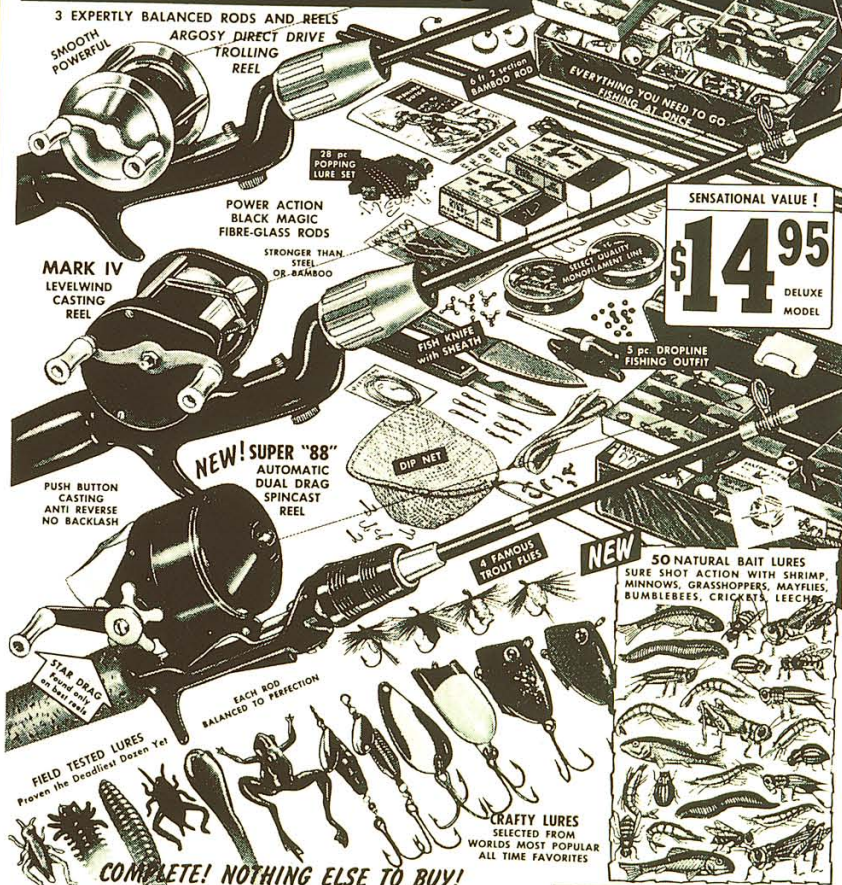
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